

# **CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**JANUARY 13, 2005**

## **MINUTES**

**The regular meeting of the Cumberland School Committee held on Thursday, January 13, 2005 at the Administrative Office/Cafetorium, 2602 Mendon Road, was called to order at 7:30 PM, by Chairman Paul Neves, with the following present:**

**Paul Neves, Chairman, Donald J. Costa, Vice Chair, Arthur DeCosta, Clerk,**

**Rosa Crowley, Linda Teel, Robert C. Thibodeau, Earl T. Wood**

**Also Present: Joseph M. Nasif, Superintendent, Donna A. Morelle, Assistant Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director Legal Services/Employee Relations**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by committee members.**

**II. Approval of Agenda - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Ms. Crowley and Mr. DaCosta, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the agenda. The Chair noted Mr. Thibodeau was present but not on the dias due to his recovering from surgery.**

**III. Chairperson's Report - None.**

**IV. Comments from the Public - None.**

**V. Reports of Standing Committees - None.**

**VI. Consent Agenda - On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the consent agenda.**

**A. Police Report - The Chair commented on the number of larcenies last month.**

**B. Approval of Minutes**

**1. Open Session of November 23, 2004**

**C. Maintenance Report**

**D. Enrollment Report**

**E. Building Use Report**

**VII. Old Business**

**A. Building Committee Update - The Superintendent reported several members of the committee and the Mayor toured the auditorium. The seats are being installed. Punch lists are being prepared for four of the lavs and will be turned over for use. The roof work on the auditorium is being done under warrantee. The Wellness Center work has slowed for shop drawings and is being prepared for winter.**

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He explained Mr. DeQuattro has a lead on the smoke detectors for the lavs which are made in Canada.

**B. Search Committee Update** - Mr. Rotella reported he and an assistant principal at the High School interviewed two candidates for the Truant Officer position. A recommendation will probably be made tomorrow. There is a substitute in place; a person who had held that position in Pawtucket. An interview committee will be put together for the part time assistant principal position at Community this week.

**C. 2005-2006 School Calendar** - The Superintendent reported the calender is based on the RI School Administrator's Association calendar. He noted 183 instructional days. August 24th would be new teacher induction. The week of August 31st will be faculty orientation and the opening of school. The second professional day will be November 10th. He recommends making December 22nd the last day before Christmas vacation. The Chair suggested making the last day the December 23rd to avoid the last day of school being Monday, June 19th. The Superintendent explained he would have to check with collective bargaining due to Christmas falling on Sunday. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE** tabling the calender until the January 27th agenda.

## **VIII. New Business**

**A. Home Schooling Request** - The Assistant Superintendent

explained there is one request from a family that has been home schooling for a number of years. There was a misunderstanding due to the age of the student. This came to light when the parent brought in a course request from CCRI. On a motion by Ms. Crowley, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 5-2 TO APPROVE the request, with Mr. Wood and Mr. Neves voting against. Mr. Costa requested the subject of home schooling go before the Rules and Regulations committee.

**B. Board of Regents Commendation - The Superintendent announced the Board of Regents has shown recognition to schools that show improvement for two years in a row, Cumberland Middle School and Cumberland High School**

**Mr. Thibodeau's departure is noted at 8:05 PM.**

**C. School Max - The Superintendent explained they have been using an information program, MMS and exploring other options. Mr. Barrett, Director of Technology, made a presentation on School Max, which is used for tracking students' health, biographies, grades, etc. He noted a disadvantage of MMS was that it had ten different systems, one for each building, and it doesn't talk to each other. He showed School Max can be accessed from home through RIDE. Cumberland has received approval for a grant, subject to School Committee approval, for 50% of the start up cost. The estimated cost would be not exceed \$20/per student. Maintenance would not exceed \$8/per student for a three year contract.**

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**The Superintendent noted this would be up for vote January 27th and if not approved, they would use MMS for another year. Mr. Barrett noted there may be an additional cost for network connections at some schools.**

### **IX. Superintendent's Recommendations**

**A. Personnel Recommendations - The Superintendent made the following presentations:**

**1. Mr. DaCosta made a motion to approve the resignation of Maxine Tomlinson, Teacher Assistant at North Cumberland Middle School, effective January 14, 2005. A second was provided by Ms. Crowley. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE the motion with the following voting AYE: Ms. Crowley, Mr. Wood, Ms. Teel, Mr. DaCosta; NAY: Mr. Costa, Mr. Neves. The Superintendent noted that Ms. Tomlinson wasn't able to take a leave of absence to student teach because another leave had been granted.**

**2. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the request for Maternity Leave/Extended Sick Leave of Stephanie Baczynski, Grade 6 Teacher at Cumberland Middle School, effective January 3, 2005. A second was provided by Ms. Crowley and Mr. DaCosta. Mr. Rotella explained Ms. Baczynski didn't expect to go out on leave until April. She would be borrowing sick time and will be paying it back, which will allow her**

**medical coverage. The Chair requested a copy of the new contract.**

**A recess was declared at 8:55 PM. Open Session was reconvened at 9:01 PM.**

**Mr. Rotella explained she has made a commitment to return and if she does not, it can be withheld from her last paycheck. It was VOTED 5-1 TO APPROVE the motion, with Mr. Neves voting against.**

**3. On a motion by Mr. DaCosta, and a second by Mr. Costa, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Alissa Fisher, Special Education Teacher at Community, effective January 18, 2005 (1.0 FTE, Step 1, Advance Lane None, 10% Copay). The Superintendent introduced the appointee.**

**4. On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. Wood, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Susan Froment, Teacher Assistant at Cumberland Middle School, effective January 13, 2005 (1.0 FTE, Step None, Advance Lane None, 10% Copay)**

**5. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of Rosemarie Philbin, Teacher Assistant at BF Norton School, effective January 13, 2005 (1.0 FTE, Step n/a, Advance Lane None, 10% Copay)**

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**6. On a motion by Mr. Wood, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE the appointment of MaryEllen Rossi, Special Education Teacher at Cumberland Hill School, effective January 3, 2005 (1.0 FTE, Step 2, Advance Lane none, 10% Copay)**

**7. The Superintendent read his letter of resignation. The Chair presented the following recommendation. Mr. DaCosta made a motion to approve the retirement of Joseph M. Nasif, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, effective June 30, 2005. A second was provided by Ms. Crowley. On a roll call vote, it was VOTED 4-2 TO APPROVE the motion with the following voting AYE: Ms. Crowley, Ms. Teel, Mr. DaCosta, Mr. Neves; NAY: Mr. Costa, Mr. Wood.**

**The Chair noted the Superintendent held a press conference prior to the meeting. He thanked Mr. Nasif for his dedication to the community. Mr. Neves reported the Personnel subcommittee will have a meeting on the 27th at 5:00 PM to organize a screening committee. Members will include members of the CTA, ICSE, community, an appointee from the Mayor and Town Council. He requested anyone interested in being on the committee send a letter to the Chairman, c/o the school department. The Assistant Superintendent recognized Mr. Nasif's work, expressing appreciation for his loyalty to the system. Mr Rotella commented on his honesty and saying he was someone who lived up to his reputation. Ms. Dutremble spoke of what she has learned from Mr. Nasif. Ms. Moore**

felt privileged to work under the Superintendent and commented on his quiet manner of leading. Mr. Barrett commented on his integrity and dedication to his family. Ms. Giorgio noted how open Mr. Nasif is with parents and wished him well. Mr. Higgins noted his appreciation for the nine years as Superintendent. Ms. Murray wished Mr. Nasif well on behalf of the Cumberland Teachers, not only the current teachers, but ones before, and noted they had been adversaries, but not enemies.

**A. General Comments - None.**

**X. Comments From the Public - None.**

**XI. School Committee Comments (School Liaison Reports) - Mr. Wood reported Cumberland Hill will be hosting a family movie night on the 28th and sponsoring Len Cabral. Mr. DaCosta reported attending a DARE graduation at Garvin School.**

**XII. Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action Items Referred to in GLRI 42-46-5**

**A. Personnel Matters - Exception (1)**

**1. CTA/ICSE**

**B. Negotiations/Litigation - Exception (2)**

**1. Non-Contractual Salaries**

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## **2. Central Administration Contracts**

**No Executive Session was needed.**

**XIII. Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Costa, and a second by Mr. DaCosta, it was VOTED 6-0 TO APPROVE adjourning Open Session at 9:30 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Shirley Harris**

**Recording Secretary**